



September 25, 2001

The Honorable Gray Davis
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 1111 (Kuehl) - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor **Davis:**

The California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) respectfully urges you to sign SB 1 (Kuehl) into law.

SB 1111 will require the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency to assess the potential impacts of international trade agreements on California environmental laws and regulations. These trade agreements threaten to undo years of hard work by the Legislature and both Republican and Democratic Governors to adequately protect California's environment and public health. More fundamentally, they threaten California's sovereign right to make decisions on behalf of the well-being of its citizens.

This threat has been audaciously demonstrated by the Canadian producer of MTBE, which brazenly claims in court that California has no right to ban the use of its water-polluting product because it will harm the company's economic interests – which they claim are protected by NAFTA. The company is claiming \$970 million in damages due to lost marketing opportunities. Absent any ability for affected states to review and consider the impacts of these trade agreements, they will reward countries with lax protections for workers, public health, and the environment, and negate those protections adopted by California.

Given the implications of these trade agreements for state sovereignty, SB 1111 is actually a very modest proposal. CLCV strongly supports its passage and urges your signature.

Sincerely,

PETE PRICE
Governmental Affairs Representative
(916) 448-1015

cc: Senator Kuehl

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1212 BROADWAY, SUITE 630 OAKLAND, CA 94612
TEL: (510) 271-0900 FAX: (510) 271-0901
WWW.ECOVOTE.ORG

